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Kendall - Hot Ashes. 1908.

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THE BEQUEST OF
EVERT JANSEN WENDELL
CLASS OF 1882
OF NEW YORK

1918



HOT ASHES

ALL NEW AND ORIGINAL

By
EZRA KENDALL

THE CLEVELAND NEWS COMPANY
CLEVELAND, OHIO.
PUBLISHERS' AGENTS.

Lettering and Drawings Executed
— by —
The Mugler Engraving Company &
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• NO PREFACE •

Dear Publisher:-This is the last time I'll ever promise to do anything that I don't know any-thing about without going around the corner by myself and trying it first to see whether I can do it or not.

The first Preface I wrote I have since tried to find; but the chamber maid doesn't remember whether she emptied the cuspidor into the ash barrel or down the air shaft

On another piece of paper I wrote-Dear Reader:-when the lines appear to you to be horizontal and the letters are not upside down, the book is being held right side up-etc. When I read it to one of my daughters, in all seriousness, she says—"Is it necessary to tell them that—"At first, I thought Id faint but I says what's the use, I'll come too again.

Then again I wrote:—

My mission on Earth is to generate mirth
Into waves of innocent laughter
And to bid them roll and carry my soul
To the shores of the great Hereafter.
When I showed it to one of my boys he
must have been thinking of his weekly
allowance-He says—"Fix me up for a
couple of weeks before you go, will you Pop"

So, what's the use-Just cut the Preface
out and "on with the dance."

• *Ezra Keen* •

It's all right boys
you come high but we
must have you.

The first time that I
came to your beautiful city
was about twenty five years ago -
and I think that many of those
who are sitting down upstairs now
were upstairs then - And while I
don't expect to live forever, I hope to come back
some day and find all of the boys who are now up
stairs, down stairs



For old times' sake
I'll sing a short song to
the tune of -

"Old Dan Tucker."

I'll sing a little song,
It won't take long,
About an old man
Who once went wrong,
He courted a maid
Of sweet sixteen,
With her hair in a braid
And a smile serene.

-x-

He loved her early
And he loved her late,
He promised her all
Of his real estate,



He gave her a wheel,
And an automobile,
And all the money
That he could steal;

—x—



He busted a bank
And then went broke,
With everything
That he had in soak ;
Now he's gone to the pen
And they don't know when,
The poor old man
Will be back again.

—x—

So all old men
Take my advice :
When ready to wed
Think over it twice,
For a good old maid
At forty in the shade,
Beats a sweet sixteen
With her hair in a braid.



—x—



Never mind her looks,
Get one who cooks ;
A good boiled dinner
Beats all good looks,
For you can't be happy
With a beautiful bride,
With a lot of her
Bad cooking inside.

-2-

It's all right boys
you come high but we
must have you.

The first time that I
came to your beautiful city
was about twenty five years ago -
and I think that many of those
who are sitting down stains now
were up stains then - And while I
don't expect to live forever, I hope to come back
some day and find all of the boys who are now up
stains, down stains.

For old times' sake
I'll sing a short song to
the tune of -

"Old Dan Tucker."

I'll sing a little song,
It won't take long,
About an old man
Who once went wrong,
He courted a maid
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With a beautiful bride,
With a lot of her
Bad cooking inside.

-2-

Some places where I
sing I go all right -

Just last week, in New
York, I was singing in a place
there, and before I was half
through I was going fine - And
I kept right on going until I ran
into the manager of the theatre
out on the street -

He had been in listening
to me sing -

And he was going too -

He says - I didn't think you were
going to go but you went all right -

I says - Yes - but I should have
started right after the second verse -

He says - No, you should have
started after the first potatoe -

The first two lines of the song I was
trying to sing were -

"I won't be with you long,

You will miss me when I'm gone" -

And right after the first line - "I won't
be with you long" - some
fellow yelled - "Good" -

I thought he meant
it until I got to the end
of the second line - "You'll
miss me when I'm gone" -

STAGE DOOR



The same fellow says - Sure we will - Hit him now -

And that's when I went.

Do you all like base-ball? - I'll bet you do -

One day I was leaving the Grand Stand before the game was over and a gentleman says - What's the matter - don't you like the game? -

I says - Yes indeed - but when I don't get the right kind of a seat I can't sit through it. -

At the next game some one loaned me a barrel to sit on - and I sat through it all right.

In fact, I sat so far through it, that I was sitting nearer to the bottom of the barrel than I was to the top -

But the game was a double header - so was the barrel - and I sat through both -

To show you how little interest the ladies take in base-ball - the other day I sent a note home to my wife - I says - If you want to see the Tigers and the Cubs play this



afternoon, meet me at the gate at three o'clock -

She went back word-
All right - and never showed up -

When I got home I found out she had been waiting at the Zoo all the afternoon -

I've tried in every way to get my wife interested in the game - One day, I brought one of our ball players home to dinner -

I says - Dearie this gentleman holds the record for catching more flies than any one this season -

He says to my wife - Yes, Madam, I had rather catch flies than eat -

She says - I'm so glad - for dinner won't be ready for an hour yet - so go right out in the kitchen and enjoy yourself -

Later on, while we were eating dinner, and talking over the game, he says to me - Have you noticed how I dive for the plate -

My wife says - Yes indeed - you must be half starved -

After we had finished dinner I says to my wife - I can always tell when he is waiting for a high-ball -



My wife says - Why didn't you say so -
She says - How do you like them -
Just to be humorous he says - Straight
over the plate, and with plenty of steam -

And to get even with him,
for getting so gay, my wife
brought in a pitcher of boiling
water, along with the rye and
seltzer and says - Fix it to
suit yourself - you'll find the
steam in the pitcher -

Wasn't that a hot one for
any "fan" to have to cool -

The first ball game that I took my wife
to see we had seats next to a lady
friend of hers who was wearing a new
hat for the first time -

I says to my wife - Do
you see that chest pad
the catcher has on ? -

She says - Isn't it
lovely - Who made it -

I says - Sometimes
the ball hits the catcher
in the stomach -

She says - I'm thinking
of getting one there myself -

Then I discovered, that instead of an-
swering me, that she was talking to her friend
about her hat -



One Friday last summer I says to my wife - Dearie, to-day is ladies' day for the White Stockings -

So in honor of the occasion, she put on a pair of white stockings, and went with me -

About the seventh inning I went out to see a friend of mine named Rickey - his first name you all know - and when I returned I stood up at the back of the seats watching the game - Some one hit the ball an awful wallop -

My wife got frightened, and looked around to see where I was -

As the man reached third base I was yelling - "Come on home - you fool - come on home" -

You can see her now, can't you? -

She says - All right, I'm coming - And made a dive for the aisle -

When I saw that the man couldn't reach the home base I yelled - "Go back - you fool - go back" -

She says - All right, but don't mix me up -



She got so excited that her feet flew out from under her, and she landed in the middle of the aisle on her back -

By that time I was yelling - Slide - slide - And she did - she slid - and she slid - and she kept on sliding Down the aisle until she struck a post -

Just as I picked her up the man scored and everyone was yelling -

She says - What are they yelling about - I say - The White Stockings have got a run in -

She says - What if they have - I've got another pair on underneath -

— x —

For pastime and pleasure have you ever tackled lawn tennis? - That mild and dainty exercise for the supple and nimble -

Of course it's not strenuous enough for a fellow with a grievance in life, who wants something to swat, like a base-ball, and say to it "Take that" - "and that" - And imagine he is hitting the boun -

— 8 —



But, for a married man who is living on the installment plan, and expects to be promoted when some one ahead of him dies, lawn tennis serves to keep up his interest in life and work up an appetite for a chocolate soda -

Whenever I get my tennis shirt and trousers on they are so much like a suit of pajamas that I always feel like going to bed instead of getting out before folks and knocking that leather covered rubber bubble over a peek-a-boo net with a paddle of crocheted fiddle strings -

A fast game of tennis is so full of bending and stretching that it always looks to me like an out-door Salome dance without music -

The first thing to know in tennis is how to serve - how to land the ball over the net inside the foul line -

I used to practice serving tennis balls up to supper time - then go in and serve supper all over the table cloth -

We finally had to put



the tennis net around the table to
keep the food from hitting the wall paper.

—x—

When our firm announced that I was
to have a two weeks vacation my wife
says to me - I'm so glad you are going
to get a rest dear - it will give you a
chance to clean out the cistern, paper
the kitchen and beat the carpet -

And I had had visions
of myself sitting in the
shade of the telephone
pole, in our front yard,
blowing soap bubbles
for two weeks -



I says to my wife - Perhaps it
would be better for me to keep right on
working and hire someone to rest for me.

The next day she had the parlor
carpet hanging over the clothes line, and
had me beating it with a broom handle
in each hand until I was almost dead -

Two friends of mine
called to see how I was
enjoying my vacation -
And when I saw them
coming, I dropped the
two broom sticks and
hid myself between the
carpet -



— 10 —

When they inquired for me my wife says - He isn't far away, for he hasn't finished beating the carpet yet -

So, while they were waiting, they volunteered to finish the job for me -

And they came near finishing me with it -

After the first few whacks, my wife says - Perhaps I'd better call him -

And my friend says - No - Let him stay where he is - He needs the rest -

And after getting the rest I was more tired than I was before -

When I papered the kitchen I got the paper on all right, but, the next morning, instead of the paper sticking to the wall, the paste was sticking out through the paper - All puffed up in places like a puff ball -

Then I discovered that my wife had put a cake of yeast in the paste -

And during the night the paste had kept on rising until we had wall paper tea biscuits and paste pop-overs all over the place -

The last week of my vacation I camped



out with a friend of mine -

Besides fishing tackle and shot gunn,
we took along a clean towel and a piece of
soap - salt and pepper -
and a few table tools -

Game was so scarce
that we had to saw wood
at farm houses to get
something to eat -

It warn't a question
of who would get up first
and get the breakfast,
but, where he would get
it after he got up -

And very often after a long fast we'd
have to go fast again right away -

Early one morning we were getting
breakfast at a farm house, and my friend
passed me the butter in such a hurry
that I dropped the dish on the porch
and woke the folks up -

And we had to go
fast again -

We had to go
fast for three miles -

I put the butter
in my pocket, and
it started to run
at the same time we did -

The butter was in a roll



at the start - and I was in a roll at the finish -

When the butter got
to my shoes it was a
slippery day the rest of
the way for me; and from
the top of a knoll I slid
into camp on an empty stomach -

Friday was fish day,
so we fished all day -

A man came along and says to me -
Are you getting any bites? -

I says - Yes - Plenty -

He says - Have you caught any thing? -

I says - I've caught four so far -

And when he asked
me what kind I told him
that I didn't know, but
that they were the same
kind that were on the dog -



I was fishing with a large black spider
for bait, and just then, I got a bite on
my hook and a bite on my hip - And
I tried to catch both at the same time -

The line flew over my head, and
when it came back, it caught me in the
hip; and before I could get myself off of the
hook the bait bit me in the same place -

It's pretty tough luck when, instead of
the fish biting the bait, the bait bites you -

We each had a biscuit tied on our lines
in place of a piece of lead - And
we both got so hungry that
we had to pull up and eat
the sinkers -

Some old farmer told
us that we had the wrong
kind of bait - that we ought
to use night crawlers -

I thought I knew what he meant, so
I stayed awake all night and caught
some - My friend couldn't help me,
because he had no pillow -

He deals in feathers -
And he was camping out
with out a pillow, so
as to keep his mind
off of his business -

When I showed the farmer what I had
caught, he said, the kind he meant
came out at night, after a shower -
and generally out of a flower bed -

And when I told him what bed the
kind I had came out of,
and what they came out
after - he says - I know it -
He says - They are the
only things on our farm
that think more of me than
they do of my wife that she isn't jealous of -



He said that someone had been losing a lot of sleep in his orchard for the past few nights - But he didn't wish to say who it was, because we'd think that he meant us -

I says - Are we allowed to kill any game around here -

He says - Golf ought to be killed, but they wont even let you shoot at it -

At night my friend used to just roll himself up in a blanket, and sleep on his back, with the transom in his face wide open -

And some nights there'd be such a draft through his nose that I'd have to wake him up and ask him to close the damper in his wind-pipe - You could hear him sleeping for half a mile -

He used to say that the night air agreed with him, until , one night, he inhaled about a pint of "morning dew" before going to bed, and when he awoke the next day, his voice was so full of fog that it sounded like a steam calliope in a circus parade. And I had lost my voice during the



night shouting to him
him to shut up -

So, he had to do the
asking for something
to eat the next day -

At the first house
we stopped at, after
he had finished his
request for food, the
lady gave us two centu, and asked him
to please play the same piece over again.

At the next place we stopped he
made the same noise, and the lady
asked us to please move on as her
husband was sick -

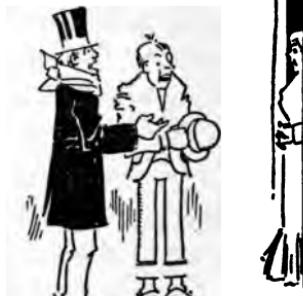
At the next place, a lady came to
the door - and as soon as he started to
talk the lady's husband called down
from up stairs and says -
Is that our dog -

The lady says - No -
He says - Then lock the
door - call a policeman
and tell him to shoot it -

So, I wrote on a piece of
paper -

he is asking for something to eat

And when the lady told her husband - He
says - All right, but look out for fleas -



We had to have our pantry in our pocket - We kept the sugar in the top pocket of my friend's vest - locked in with a safety pin -

One evening, before retiring, he forgot to pin up the pantry - And while he slept, the sugar was removed to an ant hill -

The next night they broke into our red pepper pocket; and you never saw such a bunch of hot ants - You talk about "hot-foot" - They tracked red pepper into my pores until the heat woke me up -

I looked like
a case of scarlet
fever and felt like
a furnace of flaming oil -

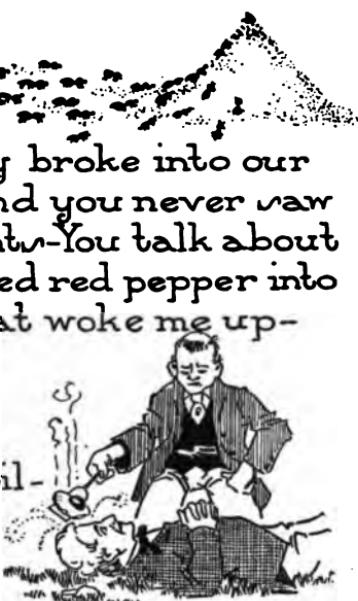
My friend said
that a raw egg would
be good for my face -

And he fried two on my forehead -

When I got home my nose was so hot,
that it cooked a whole can of cold cream,
as fast as my wife could put it on -

My wife said that I was well seasoned,
and that all I needed was a little
basting and I would be ready to serve -

The first night that we camped out
I awoke to my friend - Sometimes I dream



that I'm awake, and having a fight, and I hit whoever I am sleeping with-

He says - I do the same thing - He says - Now if I hit you in my sleep, you hit me right back, until I wake up -

I says - All right - And if I hit you in my sleep, you do the same, until I wake up -

One night he woke me up with a wallop on the eye -

I knew he was asleep, so I walloped him one right back, to wake him up -

And when he got hit, he woke up and thought that I had hit him in my sleep - So he hit me again to wake me up -

When I got the second one, I says to myself, he's still asleep - and punched him another - And when it landed he came right back with one more, and says to me - Wake up -

I says - I am awake -

He says - Then what are you punching me for -

I says - Because you were asleep -

So, when we found that we had both been awake all the while we started in to put one another to sleep standing up -



One night we crawled under a little stack of hay to sleep, and left our heads sticking out -

When I awoke in the morning,
a cow was eating hay and my hair at the same time -

One day, during the next winter, my wife and I were having dinner with one of our neighbors and my wife found a whole lock of my hair in their butter -

And the finish was, that I had to go to Court -

The Judge says - Do you wish to take an oath? -

I says - No - but I can if necessary -
He says - Are you prepared to swear -
I says - No, Judge, I'm not prepared;
but I'll do the best I can -

And before I was half through the Courtroom was empty
and the Judge ordered the windows closed;
and gave me a verdict of justifiable profanity. -

— x —

The other day the doctor says to me - You need exercise -

I says - Well, Doc, we keep a horse and

— 19 —

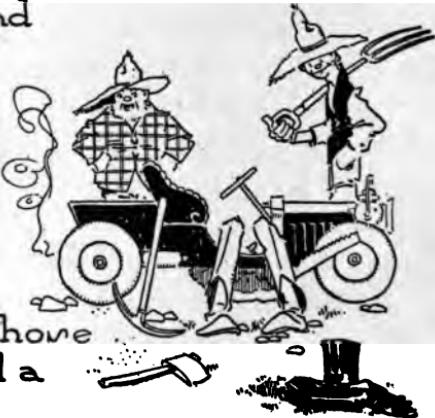


carriage and get out a great deal -

He says - Yes, but you don't get out enough - He says - Get an automobile - get out more - and take off a little flesh -

So, I got one - And the first day that I had it, I got out fourteen times in the first half mile - and took off a little flesh in three different places -

It was one of those machines they call a runabout -



It would run about ten feet and then stop

On one occasion, after I had crawled under it to see what was wrong, it started off of its own accord, and left me lying on my back, in the middle of the road, looking up at the sky -

While I was running to catch up with the machine, the doctor came along -

He says - I'm glad to see you following my advice -

I say - Yes - I've followed it now for about ten blocks - and I hope to catch up to it in the next two -



He says - You want to get out as often
as you feel inclined -

I says - I do - And, I says - Sometimes
I get out without being inclined -

I says - The first time I was inclined
about 45 degrees and went
out over the front -

But the next stop
was so sudden that
I wasn't inclined in
time and hit the
dash-board -

That was the time
when I took off the most flesh -

When I first started out to ride in the
thing, I kept thinking that I was still
driving a horse -

Instead of putting
on the brake to stop
the thing, I pulled back
on the rudder handle
and yelled - "Whoa" -

So, I kept going from
one side of the street
to the other - knocking
over all the ash barrels
and garbage pails along the line -

Once, I accidentally missed a garbage
pail - A man, who was passing, says - You
needn't bother to come back, I'll kick it over



for you myself - He thought that was my business -

Then a man came along - He says - I want to see you - I am a health inspector -

I says - Don't bother about me, I've just had mine inspected -

I says - I'll be alright as soon as I strike the end of this street -

He says - You'll strike it allright - and you'll hurt yourself good if you hit that fence -

I says - Don't worry, I'll get over it - 

And I did -

I got over it allright - I hit the fence and landed head firut on a lawn.

And while I was lying there, the lady of the lawn came out and says to the Health Inspector - This man's conduct calls for arrest -

I says - You're right, Madam, and if you have no objection, I'll take a rest right here.

I says - I'd be allright now if I had something to brace me up a little -

So, the lady brought me two fence pickets and a piece of board - 

The Health officer says - I think I ought to have you up before the Board -

I says - No - have the board up first,
and then hand me the pickets -

He says - What struck you to make
you come up this street anyway -

I says - Something from the street I
just came from, but I couldn't see
who threw it -

When I told him that I was under the
Doctor's care, he says - Well, I'm a doctor
too - He says - What you need most is a
lot of iron -

He says - I'll stop at the Dispensary
on my way down town and they'll have it
ready for you so you can get it on your
way back -

I got the iron all
right - but I never knew
that a junk yard went
by that name before -

The first piece landed
in my lap - the second
piece hit me in the
bread-basket - and
when the third piece hit
me in the same place, I
acknowledged it with a bow -

I hadn't thought of bowing at all -

But, when you get hit twice in that
same place, you make up your mind on
the second - you don't wait for the third -

Then some fellow says - Try your voice
on this - And hit me with the base part
to an oil stove -

Things were coming so fast that I
couldn't tell what I had until I got home -

My wife came out to meet
me, and look the load over -

She says - Did you get
these things all in the same place -

I say - No - I got some in
one place and some in another -

I say - I had to get them
quick because they were
going fast - I say - The place where I got
most of them is closed now -

And I showed her my right eye -

Every thing that I brought home
seemed to come in handy though - Even
the scrap iron -

My wife is subject to arguments -
And every time she has one, she has
to take something to settle her stomach -

Now, she just takes
a piece of iron and
settles the argument -

And it keeps her
busy darning my scalp -

We never did have much
iron stuff in the house -
The first day that we started house



keeping we had to send over to one of the neighbors to borrow two flatirons -

And the lady sent the flatirons over with a card on them, saying - "I wish you both many happy returns" -

I says to the lady - Madam, this is not our anniversary - Why do you wish us "many happy returns" -

She says - I'm not wishing you - I'm wishing the flatirons -

We certainly did have kind neighbors -

You just had to take anything they had whether you wanted to or not -

The family next to us had four children and only one case of measles - not enough to go around in their own family - and they let our children take them first before letting the rest of their children have them -

And after we had had them for two weeks they didn't even want to take them then - We just had to make them -

It was the same way with everything, from whooping cough to fleas - What one had we all had -

And you couldn't give one of them anything without getting more in return -

One day I threw an empty cantaloupe into the next yard and they threw six empty watermelons right back -

And another day, I gave one of the neighbors the best licking he ever had. And the next day he gave me a better one.

When I first moved there, I said to one of the neighbors - Are we allowed to keep chickens around here -

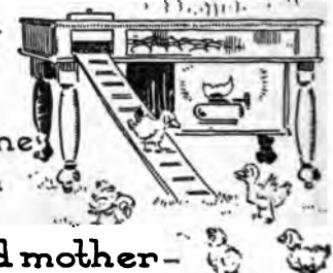
He says - Yes, if you have some of your own to start with -

He says - That's just to keep the game even - So I bought a few to start with and also a lantern to start with -

And the very first night that I started out with my lantern I could always tell a hot house hen - One of those hens hatched in an incubator -

Any chicken born in an incubator, thinks its mother was a kerosine lamp - And, when you come after it with a lantern in the dark, it thinks it is going back to home and mother -

I hatched out a lot by kerosine once - and one day when I let them out for a



runaround, the man next door lighted his lantern and set it down in his back yard - and in less than a minute all of my chickens were over there witting around his lantern -

And I had to coax them home with our parlor lamp -

When some of those little chickens discover that their mother was a lamp I suppose they imagine they will grow up to be a chandelier -



We had one old hen that was no tame she'd come right into the house and eat everything out of the work basket - and then feed off of the pin cushion for dessert.

At breakfast she used to have us busy picking hooks and eyes and safety pins out of our hard boiled eggs -

And when she took a notion to set she'd set on anything - From a croquet ball to a lemon - One day she sat on a piece of ice and hatched out two quarts of water -

— x —



Did you ever make that trip around

— 27 —

New York on the deck of a sight seeing auto-mixed in with a load of farmers from up the state - and while the country folks are seeing the city sights, the city folks are seeing the country sights -

And when you get upon some of the hills in Harlem the megaphone man says - There, ladies and gentlemen are some of the biggest bluffs in New York.

And some one on the side walk says - All right - Bring around another load tomorrow -

One trip I was on, a gentlemen from Kentucky, fell asleep on the front seat and never woke up until the guide shouted - We are now passing the mint.

A tall gentleman, who hadn't a hair on his head, was sitting directly in front of a near sighted lady - And he took off his hat just as the guide says - Directly in front of you is the shining dome of the "World" Building.

The nearsighted lady says - My! Isn't it smooth -

She says - Who are those men walking around on top of it -

The guide says - Madam, those men



you see are two flies on that gentleman's head.

And, after that, the gentleman covered his capalo -

Just as we came to a place where a lot of men were digging in the street, the nearsighted lady raised her hand to ask the guide some question -

The guide says - First let me call your attention to a pile of dirt on your right hand -

The lady says - I know it - I got it on while I was getting in -

Did you ever live in one of those little towns, where there is so little excitement, that they have to make the most of everything that happens in order to keep awake -

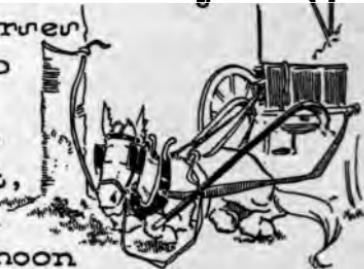
Where they call out the volunteer fire department when a Japanese lantern catches fire at a strawberry-festival -

Where even the butter and egg train stops only on signal when a person wants to leave town with a trunk -

Where the farmers drive in on Saturday afternoons - get full of "Pain Killer" and "Bone Set Tea" - and forget they

rode to town - and walk home, leaving
their horses tied to a tree all night -

And most of the horses
are so accustomed to
being left in town over
night, that as soon as
they are tied to a post,
they lie right down in
the middle of the afternoon
and go to sleep with the harness on -



I put in a summer in one of those
places once, because, I was wanted in
so many places, that I had to find some
place to stop where I wasn't wanted -

It's an awful feeling to feel some one
feeling of your shoulder blade, and
hear them say - I want you -

Especially when you know that you
may be wanted for some time - But just how
much time you never know-until you get it -

So, when I arrived in the
place, I had to wait until
I was sure that I wasn't
wanted before deciding
that I wanted to stay -

Each day my doubt was
dispelled by a donation of
decorations over each eye
until I was sure that I
was safe - I had never felt so safe and -



so sore at the same time before -
When I arrived there, I announced myself
as a Missionary of Mirth - Explaining to
all the healthfulness of laughter -
That no matter what happened to us,
we should always laugh it off -

Then some fellow hit me a rap that
ripened into a lump over my eye and
says - Laugh that off -

Between trying to
laugh it off and what I said
to him the noise that I
made sounded so much
like a dog fight that every
one yelled - "Sic 'em" -
And I forgot my bringing
up and bit him -



The dog catcher grabbed me by the
collar, and besides calling me "Towser"
he says - "Lie down" -

The town constable grabbed me at
the same time -

One wanted to take me to the dog
pound and the other wanted to take me
to the cooler -

I was in a fair way to convince the dog
catcher that I wasn't his prisoner, until a
lady came along, and swore that she
had shaved me off of her back stoop
for drinking the cat's milk -

And they wouldn't let me out of the dog pound until someone took out a license for me and bought me a collar-

Some lady paid a dollar and had me running on a dog churn all the afternoon-

During my stay in town, no matter what happened, I was the one who did it.

One day the town took sick from eating toadstools - And I was arrested for poisoning the pump -

In Court, I was trying to explain the difference between a mushroom and a toadstool, when someone hit me with a foot-stool, and I dropped the toadstool, got excited and picked up the foot-stool, and went right on explaining the difference between it and a toad-stool -

I got so mixed up I says - No one in this mushroom can eat a court-stool and tell it from a toadfoot -

Before I left the town, however, I became quite a public leader -

I led three meetings of the Law and Order Society for four miles without



being hit once -

And when I left town
I had such a following
that it almost caught
up to me before I
could get across the line.



— x —
My wife says to me - I do wish you'd
have a telephone put in the house - they
are so handy - and have so many steps -
So I did -

She has always had the habit of
talking in her sleep - And before the
first week was over she was calling
"Hello" and "Give me central" - in the
middle of the night -

One night I heard her calling my
office number in my ear -

I says - Hello - What do you want -

She says - A bottle of beer - good bye -

I went down stairs
and got her a bottle
of beer, and when I came
back there she was
sitting up in bed laughing -

She says - So good of
you dear -

Well, after that, when-
ever I heard her calling my
office number in the night



instead of saying - What do you want - I says - Get up and get it yourself -

At my office, for the first few days, I had to answer the phone every five minutes - As to how I was feeling - Whether I would like carrots in cream for dinner or stewed parsnips - Or whether we had better feed the cat any more meat during the hot weather -

Our phone was on a party line, and when my wife had nothing else to do, she could take down the receiver and hear herself being talked about -

One day, while I was talking to my wife, I heard some one take down their receiver to listen -

So, I says to my wife - I think we had better take that bag of twenty dollar gold pieces out of the pantry and hide it under the porch -

That night I saw one of the neighbors hanging around in the back yard - So, I went out on the back stoop, and says - You go home and tell your



if I changed my mind - One day I got
jolt from home that made me think
that my wife had eyes in her ears and
could see by telephone -

She called me up at the office and
says - Tell Miss May I want to speak to
her -

I says - I don't know the lady.

My wife says - She's
one with the blue dress on standing
over by the heater -

I looked around
and, sure enough, there
stood a lady with
blue dress on -



So, I called her to the phone, and
after she and my wife had finished
speaking, my wife called me to the
phone again, and says - Why don't
you keep your coat on -

I says - How did you know I had it off -?

She says - Don't you suppose I can see -?

She says - Tell Miss May I want to
speak to her again -

I says - She's gone out -

My wife says - No she hasn't - She's
standing behind the cashier's desk -

I looked, and there she was -
and when the lady had finished

speaking a second time, my wife called me to the phone again, and says - Don't wear that handkerchief around your neck in the office -

I was so excited I couldn't speak - A little later one of the girls in the office says - Your wife wants you to come to the telephone again -

So I straightened my neck-tie and buttoned up my vest, and says - Hello-

It wasn't my wife at all - but a gentleman friend of mine -

He says - Your wife phoned me this morning before I was out of bed and said she wanted to see me -

I says - Did you go to the phone?

He says - Yes -

I says - Then she probably did -

And I shut off the phone and started for home -

On the way I met Miss May -

She explained the trick and offered to help me play it on a friend of mine -

So, I went back to my office, and she started for the parlor of the Colonial Hotel - to lean against the heater -

I called up the clerk and says - Bill,



hen Miss May comes in with a blue
ress on , tell her to lean against the
eater so you'll know who she is
hen I call her -

So, when she came
in, Bill says to her -
ever mind leaning
gainst the heater;
ave a chair - and when
e calls again I'll let you know-

A little later Bill says
o her - He just called up
nd wants you to let him know whether
have my coat on - Bill says to her -
told him that I could tell him that
myself - but he says you must tell
im because I am not supposed to know
hat he knows it.-

And he wants me to tell him now, where
ou'll be standing when I say you've gone.

Before Bill could say any more Miss
May flew through the door - And it cost
ne three bottles of wine to square the joke.

— x —

One of our neighbors took us by surprise
ne evening with a lot of noise in their
ouse that I couldn't account for-

At first it sounded like a choir
shearval with each one singing the
rong hymn -

— 37 —



And then again, it sounded like a council meeting trying to harmonize on something hopeless without the interference of the police -

So, I phoned to the wife of our police force, and asked her to wake it up and send it over -



And he discovered that the disturbance was being distributed through a funnel shaped horn from a small square box on our neighbor's parlor table -

Then we were all invited in and introduced to their phonograph -

It certainly is a useful invention - We bought one - And now I buy the blank cylinders - and we make our own records.

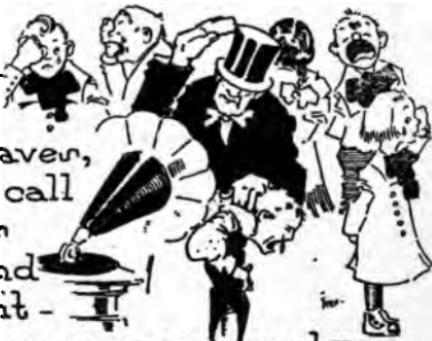
My wife has four very clear records of her different curtain lectures, and they save her sitting up for me after ten o'clock at night -

When she is ready to retire she just puts one of the lectures on the machine - then, when I come home I turn it on - Listen to it as long as I like - and go to bed -



It certainly is handy - And it can't argue with you - and if you don't like what it says, you can hit it without hurting it - so that you don't have to apologize to it in the morning -

The first day we got it I spanked all six of our children on separate cylinders - And now, whenever one of them misbehaves, all I have to do is to call him in, pick out his licking, turn it on, and make him listen to it -



Whenever we have company, and run short of records, we lengthen out the program by licking the children -

The children finally got to laughing so listening to themselves being licked that I had to make new records about every week -

With a good cylinder you can get a record of any noise -

One of the boys took the thing down in the cellar and got a record of himself sawing wood -



Now, when he comes home from school, if his mother happens to be

upstairs where she can't see him he puts the cylinder on in the parlor and sits out on the porch and listens to himself work -

And we have our own moving picture machine right in the parlor - Yes, indeed.

We can go wherever we like without getting off of the sofa -

We just send down to the film place and say send up Ireland and Germany and we can go all through them three times a night - and push a button and stop at any place a long as we like -

And quite often I see some one in the picture I know - Some one who happened to be traveling abroad where the picture was being taken -

And when I meet him down town next day I say - Hello, Bill, I saw you in Ireland last night -

Then I always invite him up to the house to see himself travel - They always like to see themselves travel -

One evening a friend of mine got so tired watching himself climb the Alps, that we had to help him home -

I says to our butcher
the other day - Why do
you charge us forty cents
a pound for meat while hay
is only ten dollars a ton -?

He says - Because
you can't eat hay -

There is no answer
to that answer - We can't eat hay -

But we can eat eggs - So, to economize,
our family started in eating eggs - Until
eggs got to be forty cents a dozen - And
then I says to our grocer - While chicken
feed is five cents a peck why do we
have to pay fifty cents a dozen for eggs -

He says - Because you can't -

I says - You needn't say the rest -
I know we can't -

And there we are again - We can't
lay an egg - And we can't eat hay -

Science has taught us
how to fly in the air -
To travel under water -
To talk by lightning -
But never how to eat hay -
So it's up to us to get
together and chew hay -

I started in at first on spinach
and dandelion greens with a little
chopped grass mixed in.



Now I take my hay three timer a day-
It sounds foolish-But it's the only way.
All you need is a hay
cutter in the kitchen
and a feed box for each
one of the family-

Our butcher shop
has a sign on it -"Closed
On Account Of The Hay Fever"-

The only embarrassment about being
a hay eater is, that when everyone yells-
"Hey there!," in the street, you think
they mean you -And it keeps you
busy bowing to strangers-

One day, down town, I kept shouting
"Hey!" to a friend of mine across the
street, untill a policeman,
who knew that I was a hay
eater, finally says - If
you're hungry say so;
but don't stand here
yelling hay all day-

— x —

Did you ever have a garbage
garden in the back yard ?-

Garbage garden doesn't sound
very good but it looks all right -

In the suburbs we don't have a
garbage collector - So, during the summer,
we have to bury it in the ground in the back yard



Before we left our home, in July, we had deposited, at different times, some seven barrels of vegetable odds and ends - corn-cobs and melon seeds - and when we returned, in September, cucumbers and corn, tomatoes and potatoes, were all growing up out of the same hill.

We never had such a handy garden before - Beans and peas climbing up the corn stalks together -

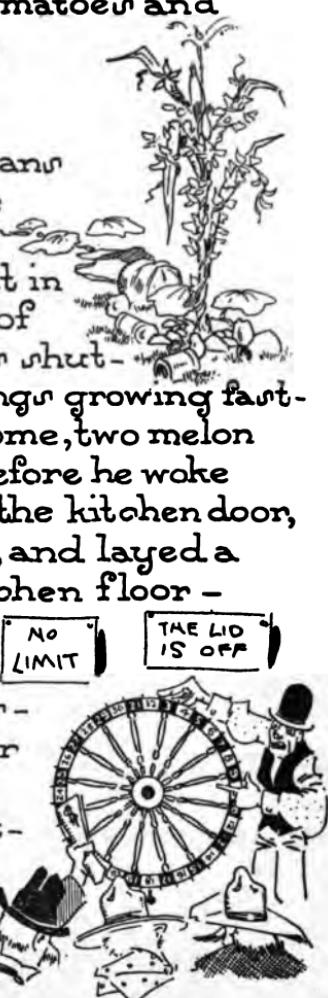
You could stand right in one spot and pick a pail of succotash with your eyes shut -

And you talk about things growing fast -

The first day we got home, two melon vines ran over the dog before he woke up - And when we opened the kitchen door, a pumpkin vine crept in, and layed a pumpkin right on the kitchen floor -

— x —
Did you ever go down
to Hot Springs, Arkansas -
that famous cold weather
resort - And get into hot
water without getting wet -

Nothing seems to be
the matter with anyone
down there - And yet, from



their conversation you'd think they
were all sick -

To several guests, who were standing
about the hotel desk, the clerk says -
Gentlemen, how are they treating you -

One said - They
soaked me good
last night -

Another says -
I've had my leg pulled
three times since Monday -

And another one says -
I've been getting it in
the neck so far -

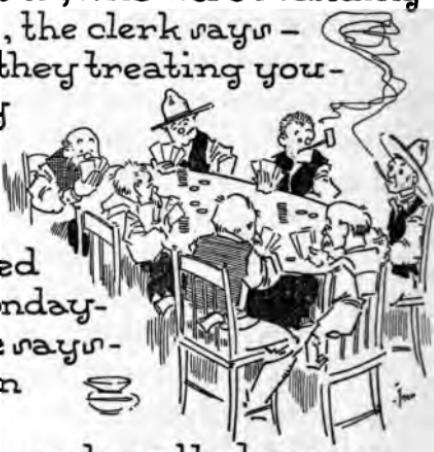
The clerk informed me that many
of the guests were very prominent dealers -

He says - That gentleman there is a
dealer in Careys -

I says - Shoe cases or suit cases -
The clerk says - No - Pat Careys -

The clerk says - Some of our guests
here during the winter are deck hands
from the Mississippi River boats -

He says - Last winter that gentleman
standing there, was caught
sitting on a cold deck
during a freezeout; and
almost lost his right ear -
I says - Bitten by the frost? -
He says - No - By a stranger -



And while I was thinking it over one
guy says to another - When I called you
last night you
had a worse hand
than I had -

The other man says -
Yes - And I had trouble
in that same joint
after you left -

After that, I whispered to the clerk,
and says - Clerk, what's the matter with
this man's hands -

The clerk says - I don't know - He says -
He's had the worst hands I ever saw, for
the past two weeks -

I couldn't see anything wrong with them -

So, I whispered to the clerk again,
and says - Is there a place around here
where I can have my eyes examined -

He says - What for -

I says - So that I can
see these gentlemen's hands -

He says - If your going
to try any thing like
that, you better get
some leeches for your
eyes at the same time -

He says - One man got
his eye knocked out here last week for
looking at a man's hand without paying for it -



The Clerk sayn - It count me ten dollars
to see just one of his hands last night -
I sayn - Well, I've been looking at both of
them for ten minutes - How much do I owe
him now -

Of course after I learned the ropes
it was different -

At the breakfast table, one morning,
a man sayn to me - If I
had held your hands
last night I'd have all
the money you've got -

I sayn - Yes - And if
I had held your hands
I'd still have my watch -

Some of us who had been more used
to camp meeting, and Chautauqua assembly
amusements, with curfew at ten, organized
a party of our own, and used to use plain
beans and coffee beans in place of chips.
Sometimes we would play for a pot of
beans, and sometimes for a pot of coffee -
And sometimes for a pot of beans and
coffee mixed -

One afternoon we
were having a game
in the back yard when
a farmer came along
with a load of corn -
So we threw away the beans



and coffee - and bought a peck of corn
on the cobb for twenty five cents -

- In the game we made each kernel
worth a dollar, - The farmer got excited -

Then we explained to him the differ-
ence that a deck of cards makes with
the price of corn - And
sold him an ear and a
half of our corn for
fifty dollars - And let
him deal -

And when the ear and
a half was gone, we
gave him the deck, and he
went home and introduced the game to
his neighbors - And lost his wife and
got put out of the Church -

He said he wouldn't care so much
about losing his wife, only, she was the
only wife he had - And that the man who
won her already had one. -

When I asked him how he lost his wife -
He said that he ran out of corn trying
to make two pair beat a full hand -

He said he got put out of church for
putting half an ear of
corn on the contribution
plate, and taking off the
cash for what the parson
owed him from the last game -



Did you ever get so forgetful that you had to wear something, or carry something, to remind you of what to remember? -

At one time I kept forgetting to have my hair cut, until my wife insisted that I carry an old shoe so as not to forget it -

I started down town with the shoe in my hand, and before I reached the office, I had left it somewhere -

While I was eating lunch I telephoned to my wife - I says - What was it that I was to have done -

She says - What have you in your hand - I says - A ham sandwich - And she hung up the phone in disgust - While I was standing around in the restaurant, I picked up a few different things, in hopes that I might accidentally strike on the thing I had had in my hand, and so be reminded of what I was trying to remember -

I picked up three umbrellas - four paper bundlers - a gold headed cane, and a dress suit case -



And being forgetful, I forgot to
put them down -

The cashier says - Do you need any help? -
I says - No - I'm just trying to think
of something I have forgotten -

He says - I don't see what it could be
unless it's the stove -

The next thing I
knew I was in the Police
Court - And when I refused
to give my name the
Judge says to the Clerk
of the Court - Just put
down "general crook"

I had to laugh, because I had never
been in the army at all -

The judge says - Explain yourself quick -
But everyone in the court room says -
Give him time judge - Give him time -

And he did - He gave me three months -
And I never knew that they were so
particular in jail before -

I was washed and
ironed the first thing -

Then they put me in
a chair and started
to cut my hair -

When they started to cut my hair
I jumped three feet in the air -
Two guards grabbed me - And one of them



gave me an awful kick
in the coat tail -

I says - I know what
it is - I know what it
is - It's a shoe -

The guard gave me
another kick, and says -
Guess again -

I says - That's what my wife gave me
when I left home this morning -

He says - All right - There is another for
you in the same place - And kicked me again -
After they had cut my hair - And sand
papered my head - I says to the barber -
Will my hair be short long -

He says - No - It will be
long short -

After serving my sentence I
returned home, and explained
matters to my wife -

I thought she'd laugh - But she didn't -
She took one look at my head - And
when I says - Do you think my hair will
come out all right -

She says - It will if it comes in -

Then she used to spend
her time watching my
hair grow, and sharpening
her nails - And as fast as
I would get a pin feather she would nail it



I says - How can I get a head of hair
if you won't let me get a hair ahead -

Finally, when she got to holding me
up for a handful at a time, I asked her
if she wouldn't please hit me with a
piece of lead pipe first,
and make the hold-up
painless -

A friend says to me -
Do you know the best
thing to take when a
person's hair is coming
out the way yours is?

I says - Yes - Gas - But I can't get it -
Whenever she wasn't around, and I'd
feel a hair coming out, I'd push it back -

I kept pushing them back until my
back hair commenced to
come out in front - And
my front hair to come out
in the back -

And now, when I comb
my hair, I have to part
my front hair on the side in the back -
And my back hair in the middle in front -

- x -

There are a few things in this world
more expensive than whiskey -

The drinking habit is bad enough,
But the shopping habit is worse -



You can blow in the family bank roll against a bargain counter quicker than you can against a beer counter -And have less to show for it -

You don't even have a few games of pinochle or a shake of the dice -

The shopping habit generally begins with a small charge account - And ends with a string of things longer than Rip Van Winkle's score -

The first thing you know, the house is full of bargains, and the coal bin is empty -

The mantle is full of bric-a-brac, and the rent is overdue -

If you use steam heat in the house, you send home a wagon load of stove pipe because it's a bargain -

And instead of sending home a barrel of flour, the delivery wagon drives up with three boxes of Chinese lanterns -

And the only way to break yourself of the bargain shop habit is to break up housekeeping, call in the auctioneer, and hear the man you bought it from bid eight cents for an arm full of oriental rubbish that cost you Two Hundred Dollars -

One day an ice wagon broke down down



town with a load of ice - They piled the ice up on the sidewalk in the boiling sun, and put a sign on it - Bargain In Ice -

My wife took it - Ten dollars worth for sixty cents -

She telephoned me to hurry up -

I hired an express wagon for Two Dollars, and got there just in time to see the last fifteen cents worth run into the sewer -

-x-

A palmist once told me that I had a very long clothes line -

I immediately proceeded to dress up -

I used to wear a pair of banana shaped shoes that made me toe in so, that I had to step high to keep from stumbling over my own feet -

And a standing collar, that had my chin chucked up into the air, until I couldn't spit over my lip -

And it had my head tilted so far back that every time I opened my mouth my hat fell off -

And I remember that hat too -

It was shaped like a fried egg -



There wasn't room enough
in the roof of it for my
hair - So, I had to have my
hair cut short, to keep
my hat on -



A friend of mine had such a high
forehead, that he had to cut the crown
out of his hat to let his head through it -
And after that, he wore the rim to it -

It was a handy hat, though - Whenever
he took it off to a lady he could smile
right through it -

One day he was talking
through it to a very near
sighted lady - She didn't
know the crown was out -
And when he opened his
mouth, she thought it was
a hole in his hat, and
shoved her umbrella into it -



She broke off one of his front teeth -
And when she discovered what she had done,
she advised him to have a crown put in -

He says - What's the use, when I can get
a new hat for three dollars -

Just then his Dentist and his Hatter
came along, and argued with him as to
which he needed most - A crown for his
tooth, or a crown for his hat - And he
decided, that to save the rest of his

teeth, he needed a crown for his hat-
—x—

These days, balloons, flying machines and air ships are becoming so common, that any time you look at the sky, you're liable to get something in your eye- You can't tell what minute you are going to get hit on the head with a bag of ballast-

Just last Monday, a balloon anchor caught on our clothes line and carried off a week's washing - We'll never see it again -

I only hope it fits - Between the auto and the air ship, we'll all get it good -

Can you see a chauffeur speeding an auto - looking up at an air ship - and running into a stone wall? -

And can you see a sky pilot - looking down at an automobile - and bumping his air ship into the flatiron building? -

We'll have to have a coroner's office on every corner -

Eloping couples will have it easier than ever - The bride can step from her tenth story window into the basket of the bridegroom's gas bag -

And after it's all over, they can bring their children up the same way - And fool the janitor -

Wonders will never cease so long as we continue to mix our drinks -

At the Aerio Club, one day, after the bartender had served several rounds of ammunition, a member of the club shot off his mouth for my benefit -

He says - We'll soon be going from New York to Chicago in airships in less than ten hours -

He says - I know that sounds impossible to you, because you are only drinking beer

I says - How does what you've been drinking mix with beer -

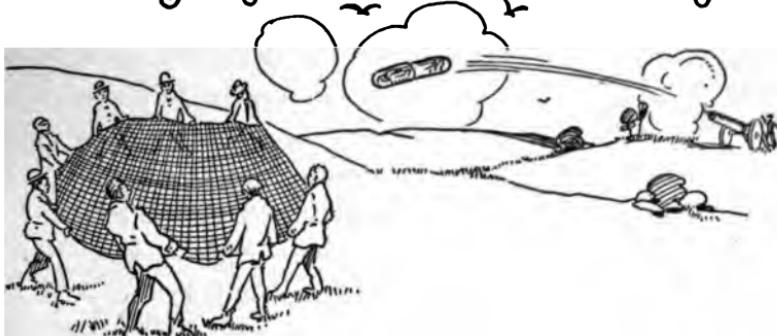
He says - I don't know - try it and see -

So I did - And after it had had a chance to work - I says - A friend of mine has just patented an idea for travelling by explosion - I says - They load

you into a capsule,
and shoot you from
a big gun into a
net five miles
distant in a fraction less than
two seconds -



You hold your breath while enroute
Allowing eight seconds to reload you



at each stop, they can fire you from New York to Chicago in one hour and forty minutes -

During the short silence that followed he says - Bartender, I think I'll mix a little beer with mine - But these airships are all for the best - It won't be long before a few rich men will own the earth - And the rest of us will have to live in the air -

So we may as well be getting ready - We may yet live in Castles in the air - I heard a real estate agent say the other day that he was going to go up the first chance that he got and stake off the milky way -



He used to sell real estate out in Kansas City, where it was impossible to sell it on the level—

Because one side of the street was a hill— And the other side was a hole—

And it was seldom you'd get a hill and a hole on the same lot, so that you could shovel the hill into the hole, and level off your property—

The scheme, at first, was to buy a hill— And then sell it for a dollar a load to a man who owned a hole— But the man who owned the hole got on to the scheme— And commenced to charge storage for the hill—

I had a hill stored in a hole for two years there once— And, when I couldn't pay the storage, I had to take it out—

I put part of it in the cellar— And piled the rest up in the back yard—

—x—

One evening, in front of a theatre, I stopped to look at some automobiles that had been left standing there—

I says to a policeman— I'm thinking of getting one—

He says— I know you are— but you'll not get it here— Move on—

—58—



you can make these
do fit the chorus
the "Mocking Bird
singing," to your own
companiment on a mouth
organ, the result is
guaranteed to remove
such roaches and rust-
the bumble bee was bumbling
and mumbling, and grumbling -
a little boy was tumbling -
tumbling over all the clover in the lot-
n-a's baby boy, full of life and joy-
ning somersaults head over heels -
at the bumble bee -
ch his stinger-ee -
the little boy stands up
to eat his meals -



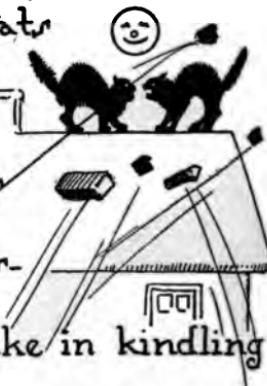
-x-

Oh, the butter-fly was flying -
swifly flying, swifly flying -
Where the butter dish was lying,
With the butter slowly melting in the sun
at the butter fly
mothers eye -
the butter fly with butter on -
ng around the place
father's face,
the butter on the fly
is going some.



From the apartment house, next to us,
our kitchen roof used to catch a
collection of apple cores, canteloupe
covers and banana peels, until we'd
have a cistern full of circus lemonade-

One night, two of our cats
gave a concert on the
kitchen roof, and the
contribution from the
neighbors was so generous
that, every night after
that, I encouraged the cats.
And had the water pipes
made large enough to take in kindling
wood and coal-



And it proved to be a great scheme.
In one month the people in the
flat house next to us missed our cats
with over half a ton of mixed coal-

And during the winter it took over
a ton of their coal to kill one of
our cats six times, and then it still had
three lives left -

The highest they ever got from us
was a cat and a half a ton -

One night, during a moonlight month,
one neighbor threw about two scuttles
of choice chestnut coal at the cats
without even hitting the roof -
I called to him and says-You're wasting it.

He says - Don't worry -
the moon will be full
y tomorrow night -
I says - Excuse me - I
idn't know that you were
rowing it that high -
I says - With the moon full, we ought
, get a fine fall of coal -

- x -

A man says to me on the street, the
her day - If this is you, you know me -
I says - I do - If this is you -
He says - Of course it's me -
I says - Then we must be us -
Just then a man came along, who knew
both, and introduced us to each other -
id neither of us were who we thought
e were at all -

I says - I took you for a friend of
ine, named Bill Jones -

He says - That's who I took you for - He's
friend of mine, too -

Just then Bill came along and started
to lick both of us
r saying that we looked
ke him -

And before we got
rough we all had such
striking resemblance,
at the man who introduced



us couldn't tell us apart —

Then, an excited policeman rushed up and says - What's the row -

The man who had introduced us says - They are fighting over their resemblance -

The policeman says - What kind of a looking thing is it? —

Then, the officer mixed in, and says - Give me that resemblance or I'll arrest the whole lot of you - And we did -

At the police station, the officer says to the Captain - Someone said they were fighting over a resemblance, whatever that is - And when I jumped in and says - Give it to me - This is what I got .



The Captain says - Gentlemen, I thank you for obeying the officer - The resemblance is perfect -

— x —

A friend of mine, who was suffering from an over dose of mental science, said he could always sympathize with anyone, because he could imagine just how they felt -

One day he lost his lunch and wanted me to lend him mine - I says - No - I'll eat my lunch myself, and you can imagine how I feel.

— 62 —

And he offered to teach me all he knew about mental science for one small biscuit —

—x—

Did you ever work in one of those drug stores out in the residence district, where you have to be agreeable to everyone? —

Where you have to smile when you sell a postage stamp; and say "Thank you" when they pay for it — and look pleasant when

lose a customer

you are looking for a telephone number for the lady who just bought the stamp —

have been there —

During a heavy rainstorm one day, a lady came in carrying a baby — The baby was crying for dear life — It seems that the lady was quite deaf — says — What a nice baby — Supposing, of course, that was talking about the rain storm she says — Yes — just what we needed — I says — What is it crying for — Still looking at the rain, she says — You can't tell — It's liable not to stop for a week.



I says - Perhaps the baby has a cold -
She says - Yes - It's liable to turn into
snow before morning -

Then, a little louder, I says - Or, maybe,
it has the colic -

She says - It all depends on whether
the wind is in the East -

Then, for her sake, I
shifted my questions to
the weather - And when
I did, she shifted her
answer to the baby -
I says - Terrible weather -
She says - Maybe it has
collywobblers -

So, I tried again - I says - Is the
rain letting up any -

She says - I think it's coming down
with the measles -

Just then it started to hail - And I
says - It's liable to crack the windows -

She looked at the baby's face and says -
I think they are breaking out now -

In despair, I shouted -
The wind seems to be
coming up instead of
going down -

She patted the baby
on the back and says -
I hope it does - poor little thing -



Between the meander and the rain
I was so tangled up that I says - When
they break out, take an umbrella after
each storm, and shake it well in a
dark room for three dollars, including
the medicine -

- x -

Several winters ago
a friend of mine invited
me to New York to get
a touch of high life
among the Sun Dodgers -

To be a Sun Dodger,
you know, you go to bed
when the sun comes up
and get up when the
sun goes down -

From twilight to daylight you
live in the gaslight -

And from daylight to twilight you
hug the hay and dodge the sun -

Then you put on your morning gown
in the evening and have breakfast
at supper time -

The winter nights are so long and
the days are so short, that
the lights burn as
brightly at six in the
morning as they do at
six in the evening -



Both sixes look alike in the winter time-

And sometimes when you wake up with
your street clothes on at just six,
you can't tell what six it is until
you ask the Hotel Clerk whether he is
the night clerk or the day clerk —

Once, I remember,

I tried to guess which
six it was by the
clothes I had on —

I woke up in full
evening dress —

I telephoned a lady
member of the Club and
asked her if she was
ready to go to dinner —

She telephoned back that she was
just going to bed —

Thinking she was sick, I started out
to find out — And, before I could get
to her house, all the street lights
went out — The sun came up — I couldn't see —
and lost my way —

I walked right slap into the side
of a building —

A policeman says —
What's the trouble —

I says — It's the wrong six —

I says — This is the time
when I'm supposed to be asleep —



He says - Well, you better wake up and get to bed -

And he led me back home -
When I first went to New York I
didn't understand that
it was necessary to have
a different suit of
clothes for everything -
Dinner - luncheon - opera -
business -

Before I had become
a Sun Dodger, my friend
arranged a dinner for four o'clock one
morning, in my honor -

He says to me - It's an informal affair -
Don't dress for it - Wear anything you happen
to have on -

So, I went to bed early and came down
to dinner the next morning with my
night dress on -

It was n't long, though,
before I had a suit for
everything - From night
dress to full dress -
And when I was in
full dress I used to
feel half dressed -

With one of those frontless vests
and a bustless coat that looked like
another vest with tails sewed on it -



In New York you're on the go so, that half the time you don't know where you are, excepting by the clothes you have on.

And you have to have a different set of cut and dried conversation to go with every suit-

Horse talk for the sporty suit- And dinner talk for the full dress-

And, some times, when you lose track of the conversation, you look at your clothes to find out what you are talking about-

One day I went to the races with my dinner suit on and fell asleep-

When the usher came around to take a betting order- He woke me up and says- What will it be-

I looked at my clothes and says- Soup and Fish-

When the usher woke me up again he says- What horse do you like in the Hamburger steak-

I looked at my clothes again and says- Any horse, so long as it's tender - And hurry it up-

When I returned from the races, I got to talking



the Hotel Clerk about horses -
He says - Out West, some people just
re on a horse the year 'round -
says - Probably some people do in
the East too, but they don't know it -
e Clerk says - We have
a reputation here for
ring the best stakes of
y city in the country -
a man next to me says -
I've heard - but
can't cut mine -
e clerk says - During
the last three days
the race week you
ll get the best part
our Horse Meet - We'll have a two
x old steak tomorrow -
He man says - How old is this one
n eating now -
he clerk says to the man - Are you living here -
he man says - No - I'm dieing here -
he next day in the cafe, when the
itter brought me a piece
meat - I says - I'd like to
ve the horse radish if
u please -
ie thought I said "Redish",
d says to me - That is the
rest we have -



Another time I went into the
restaurant with my racetrack suit on -
And, between the orchestra playing a
gallop, and my looking at my sporty
vest - I forgot where I was -

And when the waiter
says - What do you like -

I says - What entries are
scratched for today -

He looked at the bill
of fare and says - Lamb ala-
Beef Au Jus - and Ruffled
Scallops -

I says - I never heard of any of them -

I says - Find out what they are playing -
And it seems that he went into the hall
and asked the orchestra -

When he came back, he says - They're
playing Wagners' Selections -

I handed him a fifty dollar bill -

I says - All right - They are good enough
for me - Play them all -

And when the waiter came
back he says - It's the
best tip they ever had -

I says - In that case -
Here's fifty more - Play
them again -

And when I discovered
my mistake - That I had my



money on the orchestra, instead of on a horse. I sent upstairs for my opera hat and white gloves - And sat out in the hall with them on and listened to the finish of Wagners' selections.

When I first went to New York, my friend says - The latest wrinkle in trousers is a crease down the front -

He says - Every night mine are being creased while I sleep -

So, I went to bed with my clothes on and creased my whole suit -

And it cost me a dollar to hire a man with a hot Flat to melt my coat and vest into shape again -

- x -

I says to the Doctor one day - What will make a man thin - ?

He says - Worry -

I says - I havent anything to worry about -

He says - Can you swim? -

I says - No - But that doesn't worry me -

He says - Well, go down and jump off of the dock and it will -

I did -

And I almost worried myself to death - Someone fished me out with a boat hook -

I says to the Doctor next day - Do you think I look any lighter - He says - Yes indeed - Especially behind the ears -

The next number on the program will
be a short song to the tune of—"Just
As The Sun Went Down":—

Two prisoners stood in their
prison cells,

In suits of brown and gray—
They'd been in Joliet over
a year—

Now they were going away—



—x—

One kissed a bracelet of
thin gray steel—
One kissed a lock of brown,
Bidding farewell to the
bars and stripes,
Just as the sun went down.

—x—

One thought of a city in
Illinois—

Lively, and swift, and gay—
Where the North Side, the West
Side, and South Side too,
Are open night and day—



—x—

One stole a farmer's thin
bay mare—

One stole a pig of brown
And the one on the hog
Rode into Chicog
Just as the sun went down—



One question to be answered these days—
Is it good billiards to load a boy down
with a lot of excess education—

Shall we fill his "brain bin" with
solid fuel or with a mixture of dinkers
and coke and kindling wood—

Can you see a boy,
grown to manhood, with
his forehead all bulged
out with Botany—And his
stomach caved in
from lack of food—

A friend of mine graduated from college
in three courses—Rough house—Riots
and Mutiny—at an expense of twenty
thousand dollars, and the loss of one eye
and three fingers—

Another one, who collected a cranium
full of metaphysics and technics, writes
me that he is travelling
with a hypnotist—
And is in a trance
most of the year,
so that he doesn't
feel the hard times—

Few of us finish what we start in life—

One boy graduates in astrology—gets a
good job as night watchman—and loses it—
because he watched Jupiter instead of
the house, and someone stole the safe.



Another studies law five years - gets a job as a waiter - saves up his money and opens a shoe store - And then neglects his business to take lessons on a bass fiddle -

And finishes up by playing second base on some minor baseball league

What's the use starting out loaded for bear and bring in a field mouse -

It's better to start out without a gun and take a chance on killing something with a stick -

The boy who graduates from a night school generally sees the furthest in the dark -

In other words - Is the boy who is full of dead languages - ancient history and astrology - in it with the one who banks up the house in the Fall of the year - keeps the wood box filled - all winter - and delivers milk on his way to school? -

Experience is the thing - An ounce of practice is worth a pound of preaching -

A boy can learn more in contact with the business end of a bumble bee in five seconds than any book could make him believe in five years



One kick from a mule will develop more caution in a man than a year's study of "Cause and Effect"—

What a boy needs to take up is more carpets and coal, and less of Confucius —

Experience and courage count for more than conversation and ethics —

A little gumption is worth more than a lot of gastronomy —

So, why lose sleep over "Which was here first, The chicken or the egg"— so long as we have enough of both —

All great discoveries were made by accident — So, why not study less and be more careless —

Most of us profit by other people's mistakes anyway — So, what would become of us if we all got so careful that no one made a mistake —

Too much caution is liable to bring on a panic —

What we need is more up-to-date knowledge and not wait until twenty



years from now to have some historian tell what happened yesterday—

What the children want to know to-day is—

Where father was last night—

We don't know yet, who struck Billy Patterson—

And we need a class in baseball too, for old men, with a good instructor on the National Game—

So that we can go to the ball park and "root" or "roast" without yelling "Rotten" in the wrong place and "take him out" before the game begins.

As it is now, an outsider wouldn't know whether he was attending a ball game or a war dance —

Every one umpires the game at the top of his voice to suit himself and disputes everyone else with an invitation to settle it right there—

Everyone manages the game from the grand stand so loud that the base runner can't hear the coacher—

We should be made to understand the rules and regulations of the National Game, the same as we do the constitution



of the United States,
and the Declaration
of Independence -

We don't want more
battleships-We want
more baseball -

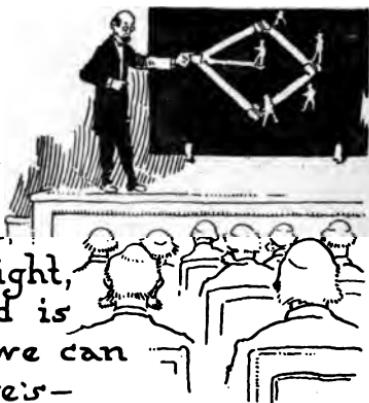
Why go to sea to fight,
when the ball ground is
nearer, and where we can
fight among ourselves-

If we must fight we can get it out
of our systems for fifty cents a piece,
on the bleachers; instead of spending
Ten Million Dollars for a fight out in
the ocean with someone else where
no one can see it -

Each one of us should be absolutely
sure that he is right and then never
give up until the other one admits it -

When one half of the crowd commences
yelling "Out" - And the other half commences
yelling "Safe" - If you don't know anything
about the game, the best
thing for you to do is,
to pick out someone
you can lick - and get
to work - and find out
about it afterward -

If you are a family
man, never sympathize with the visiting



team when they are losing, if you expect to get home alive for supper -

And don't call the attention of a bad player to yourself too often by yelling "Sorehead" - Or, he may remember you after the game, and change your face to suit himself -

If you are a stranger on the grounds, don't get lonesome because no one calls you a liar in the first inning - They play nine -

Always call the players on the home team by their first name when they go to the bat - As it helps them to miss the ball -

If you really want a batter to hit the ball, yell "Get the hook" before he even gets to the plate - And he'll get so rattled he'll hit it by mistake -

Always give your decision of the play before the umpire does - And in the same voice, if possible - So as to increase the confusion and get yourself acquainted with the policemen -

If you have no friends with you, don't be afraid to shut up when some one tells you to -

Because, it's a waste of courage to be brave alone in such a bunch -



If you have ever been a "goat" get this one:-

- x -

Two years ago I served a term -
In Joliet for a
State Street firm -
They opened a bank,
And then went broke -
And picked me out
to be the "goat" -



A goat is free on a pile of rock -
But the life of a goat
In jail is not -
You're on a rock
But you pound all day -
While the man with the money
Get's away -

For a year or more I pounded rock.
And when I got out
I couldn't stop -
For the name of the firm
Was Rock & Stone -
And I pounded them
When I got home.



Into a heap went Stone & Rock -
All piled up
With me on top -
And neither of them
Could see the joke -
That on Stone & Rock
Was the place for a goat -

I know my voice sounds like a
hoarse wind whistling through a hole
in the weather-

But, do you know, that some nights,
I sit up and gargle my throat until
three o'clock in the morning -

And I'd gargle it longer, only the
place closes up -

-x-

I visited one of my country friends
the other day, and, as usual, his wife was
out in the barn doing the chamber work.
Oiling up the harness and taking care
of the horse - While he was in the house
looking out of the window -

I says - Come out Bill, |
I'm here to buy your horse -

He says - You'll have
to see my wife about
the horse - She's out in
the barn now -

Well - I says - Who wears
the pants around here -
You or your wife -

He says - I wear them _____
in the house and my wife wears them
in the barn -

I says to him - Come to the door -

He says - I can't - I'm only dressed to
come to the window -



Then I discovered
that he was standing
there, dressed only to
where the window sill
joined his vest-

From the window sill
down he was minus his
trousers -

From the outside
looking in - His toilet
looked complete -

But from the inside looking out, it
was just a short coat - red underdrawers -
barnyard shoes and red socks -

When I saw his wife standing in the
barn door, with a horse blanket wrapped
around her, I realized that he meant it,
about his wife wearing them in the barn

I says - Have you only the one pair -

He says - One pair is enough out here -
We dont often get caught this way -

I says - How am I going
to strike a bargain for
the horse, with you in
the window, and your
wife in the barn door -

He says - Ask my wife
what she wants first -

I says - Madam your
husband want's to know



what you want—

She drew the blanket a little closer
around her and said—He knows what I
want, and he knows where they are
hanging too—

I told him what she had said—And he
says—Tell her I'm putting them on myself—

And he came out wearing
a red petticoat and a
blue overskirt—

Together, they looked
two sights—

He, with her petticoat
and skirt on—And she, with
the horse blanket sheath
gown—

They went into the barn to talk over
the price—

And when I says—Hurry up—

He says—We're getting our figures
in shape—

I says—What with, hay?—

When they brought the
horse out between them,
I don't know which looked
the worse—

He, she, or the horse—

I never saw such a
narrow horse—

Looking at him end ways he looked as



though he had been cut out of card board-
And the husband was as thin as the horse-

He says-This horse is just like
one of the family-

I says-I know it-And if your wife
was as thin as you are, it would be like
both of the family-

And,to show you
how much some women
know about horses-
when I says-How is
his pedigree-

His wife says-It
used to be long
enough to braid, but
he wore it off
standing in a short stall-

She says-We have a standing offer
for him now-

I says-You better take it before
He falls down-

And-I says-If he falls down, you better
sell him before he tries to get up-

When they set the price for the horse
I says-Your figures' are ridiculous-

He says-I'm willing to take off
something if my wife is-

She says-I don't care how ridiculous
our figures are, neither of us will take
off anything until we get in the house-



When ever the roller skating craze breaks out afresh in our town, I break right out with it - And commence to get foolish all over again -

There is something about a pair of roller skates that has me going so, that I fall for them against my will -

And, for an upright person, it's a downright shame - That is, it's a case of right down as soon as you're upright.

Did you ever put on a pair of roller skates in a rink for the first time, and start out across the floor with a declaration of independence - And receive an amendment to your constitution in the first ten seconds that loosened all the bridge work in your upper jaw, and at the same time, acted on your liver like a dose of dynamite ?

When you feel yourself slipping, you grab for the person nearest you, even if you owe them money -

You run right into people you don't care to meet - And whether you are in their set



or not, you both sit together.

When I started to learn roller skating,
I was very backward at first -

Once, as I hit the floor, the Professor
says - You're getting it down all right -

I says - Yes, and I'm a notion to
leave it there -

He says - The trouble
with you is, you don't
use your head and your
feet at the same time -

So I did - And
almost lost my head -

He says - Now, if
you keep on that way,
you ought to get ahead -

I says - Whether I ought to or not,
I'll have to -

And, whenever I'd get to going good
I had to take my choice of hitting
the wall standing up, or the floor
sitting down -

After a number of these
exhibits, I says to the
Professor - I don't know
which is the safest -

He says - It's hard
to tell - He says - So far,
it's about six of one
and half a dozen of the other -



Well,-I sayu - I'll try half a dozen
more of each and make sure-

A lady, who was leaning backward
about forty five degrees off of plumb,
grabbed a little boy, and says - I'm
losing my equilibrium -

The little boy says - Don't you care -
You can skate better without it -

Then another man and
myself skated together -

In fact ,we couldn't
help it -

Every time we'd meet
we'd both turn out for
each other on the same side -

The first time that
we came together, we each
bounced back about ten feet -

- He says - Can't you see where you
are going -

I sayu - Not yet - Can you ? -

And ,after that , the Professor made
us both skate in the same direction -

The Professor said that a friend of
his who knew me, had just phoned him
that he was coming over to see him -

About half an hour later his friend
arrived me to get up from the floor,
and says - I'm so glad to have a chance
to run over and see you at the same time -



I says - Don't mention it - So many people have had the same pleasure to-day that I am getting used to it -

The last Professor of our rink accumulated very little coin, but considerable affection -

He had a weakness for widowed milliners with money and, when he wasn't in the barber's chair, he was busy telling his past life to some trusting hat trimmer, who had decided she would go on the stage because she hated to do her own washing.

He had promised his hand to so many ladies, that he left town with his arm in a sling - After his conduct had been adjusted by a receiver appointed by several stockholders in his affection -

And, what they said about him would make an ordinary man work overtime to get money with which to buy a pistol to shoot himself -

The first roller skating Professor we had in our town wasn't on purpose at all -

He was a turn pike tourist, who had run short of loose change, and



had a letter from the last place where he worked, signed by the warden-

He organized himself into a stock Company, to promote happiness in our Hamlet - And sold several shares of stock to our leading barber, in exchange for a hair cut - And several more shares to the landlord of the Eagle Hotel, in exchange for a few rounds of watered stock from the bar -

And, while he was illuminated by the liquid sunshine, he turned on a stream of conversation, and flooded the town with an argument, that turned our Opera House, which was then full of hay, into a roller skating rink -



Being the only fellow in town with a waxed moustache and oil on his hair, he was acee with the ladies - Until our Chamber of Commerce, composed of two bartenders, one bus driver and a brakeman on the Erie, proposed an excursion by rail in his honor - For which they agreed to shoulder the responsibility, and also the rail.

The excursion started from the hay scales and ended at the village limits, where several farmers were waiting for him with double barreled arguments, that a barrel of rock salt was good for the system from either barrel.

They gave him a running start, and he beat the sun to the horizon-

His final undoing in our town came on a cold winter's night, when our village belle gave him the mitten - And he cried so hard all the way home, that the tears ran down his cheeks, and froze on his chin, into an icicle a foot long - Then he melted the icicle, and sent it to her in a bottle the next day, labeled: "Eye Water" -

She gave it to her brother to rub on a sty on his eye, and instead of taking it away, he got eight more -

The first job I ever had at Atlantic City I lost in less time than it took me to get it -

I was to sell souvenirs at one of



those counters where they sell sea shells, spoons and paper knives -

I says to the Boss - How will I know how much to charge a customer -

He says - Look at your customer and then guess.

I says - Guess what ? -

He says - Guess how much they've got -

I says - Supposing I guess too much -

He says - Then guess again - And keep on guessing until you get something - Let no one escape -

The first customer I had, picked up a sea shell and says - I'll take this one I guess - How Much -

I says - No - I guess "how much" -

He didn't look over strong, so, I says - I guess thirty cents - And, I says if that's too much, I can guess again -

And he kept me guessing until I gave it to him for nothing, and loaned him a dime to get a cup of coffee -

— x —

AT MARKET

My doctor says we should always laugh after eating - That it's good for the liver - But he doesn't stop at our

— 90 —



boarding house - Where we chew on
our steak more for exercise than
nourishment -

After breakfast, one morning, before
leaving the table, I started to laugh -
The man next to me says - What are
you laughing for? -

I says - For my liver -
So he started to laugh too -
And when the land-lady
came in, she says - What
are you two laughing for -

The man pointed to
me and says - He's laughing
for his liver - and I thought I'd have some too.

— x —

As I was going to have a new bath
tub put in the house, I went down to
the plumbers to look at some -

The plumber sent a green hired man
to fill several tubs with water for me.

After looking them
over, I says to the
hired man - You can
put me in the second one -

And he did -

I yelled for the
plumber - And when I
got out, I was so mad
that I called him a lobuter -



and says to him - You couldn't put me in one of these tubs now for nothing -

And just for that he put me in the other two -

— x —

One day, while out riding, an automobile agent induced me to trade off my horse and carriage for an automobile.

With a fountain pencil, he figured out a lot of happiness for me on his cuff - And when he ran out of room he finished by adding up all the figures on my shirt front.

When I got home, I was looking at the figures on my shirt front in the looking glass, just as a friend of mine called to see me -

I says - excuse me a moment until I see whether I am in, or out -

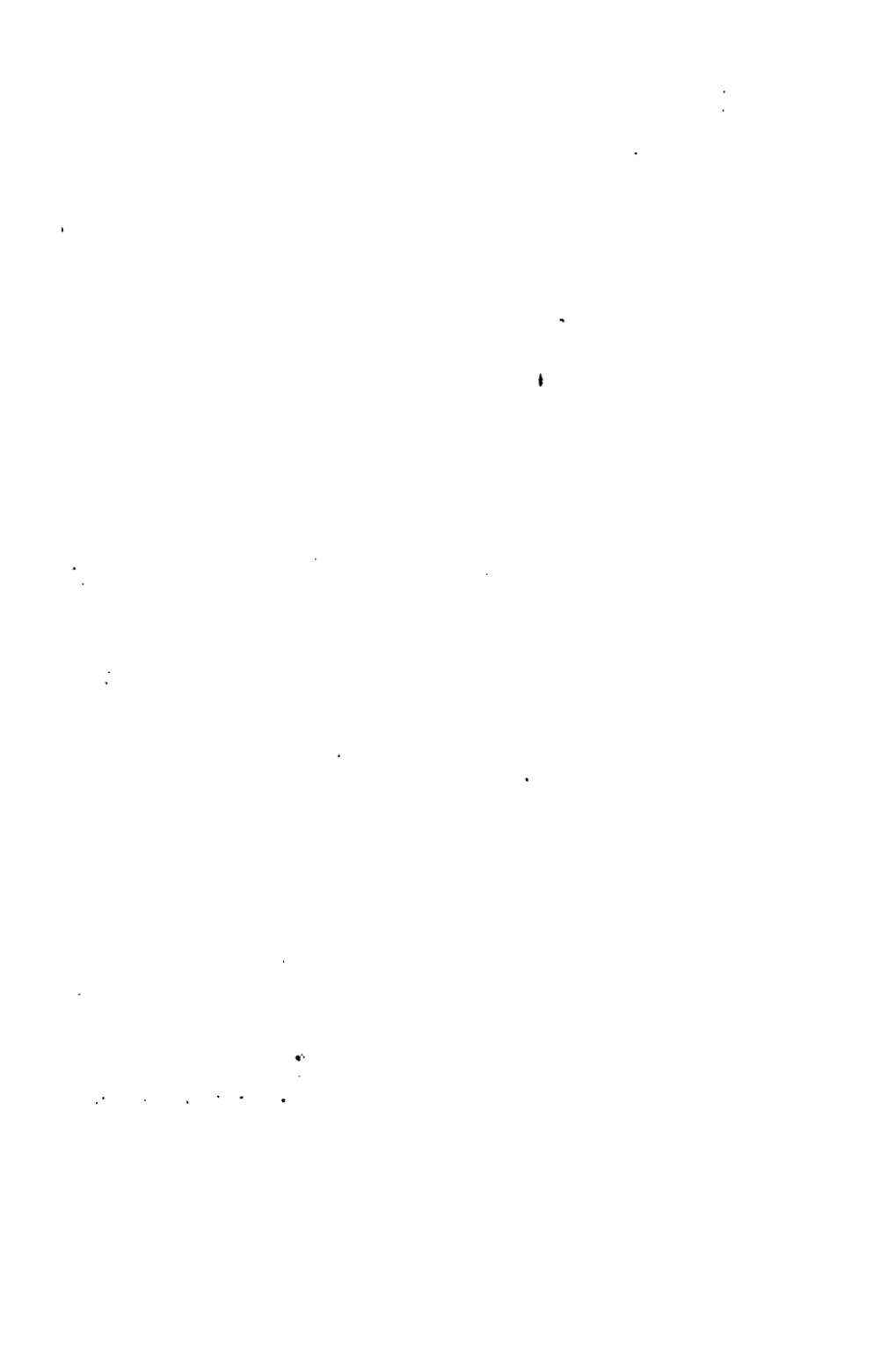
I says - I think I am in - Let me look again - I says - No - I'm out -

And when I showed him the automobile, he looked it over, and says - She's lost her circulation and she needs attention -

I says - Not "SHE" - "HE" - That's a touring car, and not a run-about -







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